

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6532

INFO SECDEF

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LONDON 16270

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: TECH, PARM, IAEA, UK

SUBJECT: PNES: UK PROPOSAL FOR IAEA COMMITTEE

REF: IAEA 10191

1. SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS ARE TROUBLED THAT U.S. HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THEIR OCTOBER PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN IAEA COMMITTEE ON ALL ASPECTS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNES). THEY UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR PORTER IS PREPARING A COUNTER-PROPOSAL WHICH THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONSIDER. THESE OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED CONTRAST IN EXPEDITIOUS UK ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. PROPOSAL ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE AND COMPLETE LACK OF RESPONSE BY U.S. TO THEIR INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS FCO MINISTER DAVID ENNALS, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY JOHN THOMSON AND DISARMAMENT DEPT. HEAD JOHN EDMONDS HAVE REPEATEDLY INDICATED THEIR CONCERN THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THEIR PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE IN IAEA TO DEAL WITH PNES. THEY SAY

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THAT THEY HAVE HAD RESPONSES FROM ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES

THEY APPROACHED IN OCTOBER. THOMSON AND EDMONDS HAVE NOTED THAT UK DID RESPOND QUICKLY TO U.S. PROPOSAL ON NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE AND QUESTIONED WHY WE HAVE NOT REACTED TO THEIR INITIATIVE.

3. ALL OFFICIALS HERE SAY THEY ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE THEIR PROPOSAL AND DO NOT EXPECT AGREEMENT WITH ALL ASPECTS. AS OF DECEMBER 6, THEY UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER AND UK IAEA REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM AND THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER IS PREPARING A COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL RATHER THAN BOARD ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE. BRITISH SEEM TO FEEL THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD BE MORE POLITICAL IN NATURE AND THUS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY IAEA BOARD BUT THEY ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS POINT.

4. THE ONLY POINT OF SUBSTANCE WHICH ALL OFFICIALS HAVE MENTIONED IS THEIR BELIEF THAT CONSIDERATION OF NPT ARTICLE 5 ASPECTS SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATED OUT FROM GENERAL PNE WORK. THEY FEAR THAT A SEPARATE COMMITTEE DEVOTED TO MONITORING ARTICLE 5 DEVELOPMENTS WOULD ONLY DRAW ATTENTION AND CREATE IMPRESSION THAT THERE SHOULD BE MOVEMENT IN FIELD OF PROVIDING PNE SERVICE TO NON-NUCLEAR POWERS. BRITISH WOULD PREFER THAT ARTICLE 5 BE SUBMERGED IN LARGER FRAMEWORK WITH HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS POINT.

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. GIVE AT LEAST INTERIM RESPONSE TO UK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EVEN A NEGATIVE RESPONSE WOULD GIVE BRITISH SOMETHING TO CONSIDER AND ANY RESPONSE WOULD HELP TO INSURE CONTINUED UK COOPERATION WITH U.S. NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS PROGRAM.

6. IAEA VIENNA 10171 WAS NOT RECEIVED HERE BUT WE ASSUME FCO HAS THIS INFORMATION. IF DG'S PLAN OF ACTION IS SUPPORTED BY USG, THIS COULD FORM BASIS OF RESPONSE TO HMG.

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